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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 16627 301824Z

65
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
---------- 068364
R 301817Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6028

S E C R E T LONDON 16627

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, MARL, MU, UK, XO
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE U.S. USE OF RAF FACILITY AT BAHRAIN

REF: STATE 011500 (JAN. 17, 1975)

1. IN LUNCHEMN CONVERSATION OCT 30, SIR MICHAEL CARVER, CHIEF OF THE DEFENSE STAFF, NOTED TO DCM THAT U.S. HAD NOT RESPONDED TO UK QUESTIONS ON POSSIBLE USE OF RAF FACILITY AT MASIRAH. HE SAID THAT CONSIDERATION IS NOW BEING GIVEN IL HMG TO WITHDRAWAL FROM MASIRAH IN MID-1977. CARVER EXPRESSED PERSONAL WISH THAT U.S. COULD INDICATE WHETHER IT HAS FIRM REQUIREMENT FOR OCCASIONAL USE OF MASIRAH ONLY UNTIL UK DEPARTURE.

2. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND CARVER HAS ALWAYS OPPOSED CONTINUED UK PRESENCE IN MASIRAH. IT MAY BE THAT HE IS SEEKING AMMUNITION TO FIGHT FCO WHO PROBABLY USING U.S. REQUIREMENTS TO BLOCK PLANNING FOR WITHDRAWAL. IN ANY CASE, THIS IS FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF MID-1977 DATE FOR UK WITHDRAWAL FROM MASIRAH. WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS HAVE NOT RAISED THIS ISSUE WITH US FOR MONTHS. WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FOR INFORMAL REPLY TO CARVER. END COMMENT.

RICHARDSON

SECRET

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